

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A plastic molded drum having a bung opening, the plastic molded drum comprising a cylindrical wall, a top structure, and a bottom structure, all integrally molded;

the top structure comprising a top wall and a top chime having a top edge extending circumferentially around, upwardly, and radially outward with respect to said top wall, the top wall comprising an integrally molded recessed portion, the top structure further comprising an upwardly extending first fitting integrally molded with the recessed portion and extending therefrom, the first fitting having a first neck portion and adapted to receive components including a closure;

wherein at least the top chime, the top wall, and the cylindrical wall are integrally molded so that there are no welded portions connecting the top chime with the top wall or the cylindrical wall, and so that there are no welded portions connecting the top wall with the cylindrical wall;

wherein the distance from the top of the first fitting to the top edge of the top chime is sufficient such that components extending 1 and $\frac{1}{4}$ inches above the top of the first fitting is below the top edge of the top chime; and

wherein the drum is made by a process comprising blow molding at least the cylindrical wall, the top wall, and the top chime together in a single blow molding operation.

2. (Previously Presented) The plastic molded drum of claim 1 wherein the recessed portion is localized around the first fitting.

3. (Currently Amended) The plastic molded drum of claim 1, further comprising a bottom chime integrally molded so that there are no welded portions connecting the bottom chime with the bottom wall or the cylindrical wall, and wherein the process for making the drum includes blow molding the bottom chime together with the cylindrical wall, the top wall, and the chime.

4. (Previously Presented) The plastic molded drum of claim 1 wherein the closure comprises a vent outlet and a vent valve for relieving pressure within the drum.

5. (Previously Presented) The plastic molded drum of claim 4 further comprising a cover extending over the vent outlet, and vent valve.

6. (Currently Amended) A combination blow molded plastic drum, and closure, the plastic molded drum comprising, a cylindrical wall, a top structure, and a bottom structure, the top structure and the cylindrical wall integrally molded;

the top structure comprising a top wall, an integral recessed portion, an upwardly extending first fitting extending from the recessed portion, and an upwardly extending chime with a top edge; wherein at least the chime, the top wall, and the cylindrical wall are integrally molded in one piece in a single blow molding operation, so that the chime is not part of a separate body attached to the top wall or the cylindrical wall, so that there are no welded portions connecting the chime with the top wall or the cylindrical wall, and so that there are no welded portions connecting the top wall with the cylindrical wall;

the closure engageable with the first fitting to secure the closure in place on the drum;

~~the chime extending above the closure when the closure is secured on the drum insert~~, the chime extending above the recessed portion 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; and

~~the distance between the top of the first fitting and the top edge of the chime is sufficient such that where components attach to and extends being at least 1 and $\frac{1}{4}$ inches above the first fitting, the components do not extend above the top edge of the chime.~~

7. (Original) The combination of claim 6, wherein the recessed portion is localized around the first fitting.

8. (Original) The combination of claim 6, wherein the closure is attached to a drum insert with the drum insert attached to the first fitting.

9. (Original) The combination of claim 6, wherein the closure comprises a vent outlet and a vent valve for relieving pressure within the drum.

10. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 6, wherein the first fitting extends from the recessed portion a distance not more than substantially one half the vertical distance between the recessed portion and the top edge of the upwardly extending chime.

11. (Currently Amended) A blow molded plastic drum made by a process comprising the step of blow molding said drum in a single blow molding operation as a one-piece, integrally molded body including a cylindrical wall, a top structure, and a bottom structure, the top structure comprising a top wall, an integral recessed portion, an upwardly extending first fitting adapted to receive a drum insert with a closure, and an upwardly extending chime for protecting the drum insert and closure from physical contact, the chime having a top edge, wherein the chime, the top wall, and the cylindrical wall are integrally molded so that there are no welded portions connecting the chime with the top wall or the cylindrical wall, and so that there are no welded portions connecting the top wall with the cylindrical wall, the first fitting adapted to receive a drum insert with a closure secureable on the drum insert, the chime extending above the closure when the closure is secured on the drum insert and the drum insert is received on the first fitting, the height top edge of the chime sufficient to allow the closure to extend at least 1 1/4 inches above the top of the first fitting and be below the top edge of the chime.

12. (Previously Presented) The drum of claim 11, wherein the recessed portion is localized around the first fitting.

13. (Previously Presented) The drum of claim 11, wherein the recessed portion extends substantially throughout the top wall.

14. (Previously Presented) The drum of claim 11, wherein the closure comprises a vent outlet and a vent valve for relieving pressure within the drum.

15. (Previously Presented) The drum of claim 11, wherein the first fitting extends from the recessed portion a distance not more than substantially one half the vertical distance between the recessed portion and the top edge of the upwardly extending chime.

16. (New) A pair of stackable blow molded plastic drums, each drum comprising a cylindrical wall, a top structure, and a bottom structure, each drum being made by a process comprising blow molding the cylindrical wall, the top structure, and the bottom structure together in one piece in a single blow molding operation, the top structure of each drum comprising a top wall with a first fitting extending upwardly therefrom, the first fitting adapted to receive a component thereon, the top structure further including a chime having a top edge extending circumferentially around, upwardly, and radially outward with respect to the top wall defining an upwardly directed recess on top of the drum for protecting the component from physical contact when the component is received on the first fitting, the recess having a height dimension of at least 1 and $\frac{1}{4}$ inches measured between the top of the first fitting and the top edge of the chime, the pair of drums being vertically stackable with the bottom structure of the upper drum confronting the top structure of the lower drum so that none of the lower drum top wall, first fitting, or component received on the first fitting contact the bottom structure of the upper drum when the drums are stacked.